

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

ROBERTO DURAND,

Plaintiff,

v.

MARITZA,

Defendant.

Case No. 3:22-cv-00056-RCJ-CSD

ORDER

Plaintiff Roberto Durand brings this civil-rights action under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 to redress constitutional violations that he claims he suffered while incarcerated at Ely State Prison. (ECF No. 1-1.) On February 3, 2022, this Court ordered Durand to file a fully complete application to proceed *in forma pauperis* or pay the full \$402 filing fee on or before April 4, 2022. (ECF No. 3.) The Court warned Durand that the action could be dismissed if he failed to file a fully complete application to proceed *in forma pauperis*, including an inmate account statement for the previous six-month period, or pay the full \$402 filing fee for a civil action by that deadline. (*Id.* at 3.) That deadline expired and Durand did not file a fully complete application to proceed *in forma pauperis* or pay the full \$402 filing fee.

Because Plaintiff submitted several incomplete applications to proceed *in forma pauperis*, the Court considered meaningful alternatives to dismissal and issued another order granting Plaintiff one final opportunity to submit an inmate account statement for the previous six-month period. That deadline expired and Durand still has not filed an inmate account statement for the previous six-month period or paid the full \$402 filing fee. Nor has Plaintiff asked for an extension. Instead, Plaintiff filed a form motion and affidavit to proceed *in forma pauperis* for the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. (ECF No. 12.)

**I. DISCUSSION**

District courts have the inherent power to control their dockets and “[i]n the exercise of that power, they may impose sanctions including, where appropriate . . .

1 dismissal” of a case. *Thompson v. Hous. Auth. of City of Los Angeles*, 782 F.2d 829, 831  
2 (9th Cir. 1986). A court may dismiss an action based on a party’s failure to obey a court  
3 order or comply with local rules. See *Carey v. King*, 856 F.2d 1439, 1440-41 (9th Cir.  
4 1988) (affirming dismissal for failure to comply with local rule requiring *pro se* plaintiffs to  
5 keep court apprised of address); *Malone v. U.S. Postal Service*, 833 F.2d 128, 130 (9th  
6 Cir. 1987) (dismissal for failure to comply with court order). In determining whether to  
7 dismiss an action on one of these grounds, the Court must consider: (1) the public’s  
8 interest in expeditious resolution of litigation; (2) the Court’s need to manage its docket;  
9 (3) the risk of prejudice to the defendants; (4) the public policy favoring disposition of  
10 cases on their merits; and (5) the availability of less drastic alternatives. See *In re*  
11 *Phenylpropanolamine Prod. Liab. Litig.*, 460 F.3d 1217, 1226 (9th Cir. 2006) (quoting  
12 *Malone v. U.S. Postal Serv.*, 833 F.2d 128, 130 (9th Cir. 1987)).

13 The first two factors, the public’s interest in expeditiously resolving this litigation  
14 and the Court’s interest in managing its docket, weigh in favor of dismissal of Durand’s  
15 claims. The third factor, risk of prejudice to defendants, also weighs in favor of dismissal  
16 because a presumption of injury arises from the occurrence of unreasonable delay in filing  
17 a pleading ordered by the court or prosecuting an action. See *Anderson v. Air West*, 542  
18 F.2d 522, 524 (9th Cir. 1976). The fourth factor—the public policy favoring disposition of  
19 cases on their merits—is greatly outweighed by the factors favoring dismissal.

20 The fifth factor requires the Court to consider whether less drastic alternatives can  
21 be used to correct the party’s failure that brought about the Court’s need to consider  
22 dismissal. See *Yourish v. Cal. Amplifier*, 191 F.3d 983, 992 (9th Cir. 1999) (explaining  
23 that considering less drastic alternatives *before* the party has disobeyed a court order  
24 does not satisfy this factor); accord *Pagtalunan v. Galaza*, 291 F.3d 639, 643 & n.4 (9th  
25 Cir. 2002) (explaining that “the persuasive force of” earlier Ninth Circuit cases that  
26 “implicitly accepted pursuit of last drastic alternatives prior to disobedience of the court’s  
27 order as satisfying this element[.]” *i.e.*, like the “initial granting of leave to amend coupled  
28 with the warning of dismissal for failure to comply[.]” have been “eroded” by *Yourish*).

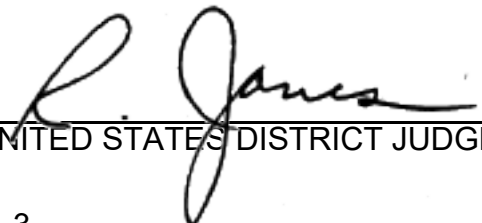
Courts “need not exhaust every sanction short of dismissal before finally dismissing a case, but must explore possible and meaningful alternatives.” *Henderson v. Duncan*, 779 F.2d 1421, 1424 (9th Cir. 1986).

Because this action cannot realistically proceed until and unless Durand either files a fully complete application to proceed *in forma pauperis* or pays the \$402 filing fee for a civil action, the only alternative is to enter a third order setting another deadline. But the reality of repeating two previous orders is that it often only delays the inevitable and squanders the Court’s finite resources. The circumstances here do not indicate that this case will be an exception. In both of its previous orders, the Court instructed Plaintiff that he must file an inmate account statement for the previous six-month period. (ECF Nos. 3, 11.) Following the Court’s latest order, Plaintiff did not file a request for an extension or indicate that he was having difficulty securing an inmate account statement for the past six months. Instead, Plaintiff ignored the Court’s order and filed an application to proceed *in forma pauperis* on a standard form for the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Setting a third deadline is not a meaningful alternative given these circumstances. So, the fifth factor favors dismissal.

## **II. CONCLUSION**

Having thoroughly considered these dismissal factors, the Court finds that they weigh in favor of dismissal. It is therefore ordered that this action is dismissed without prejudice based on Durand’s failure to file a fully complete application to proceed *in forma pauperis* or pay the full \$402 filing fee in compliance with this Court’s February 3, 2022, and May 4, 2022, orders. The Clerk of Court is directed to enter judgment accordingly and close this case. No other documents may be filed in this now-closed case. If Durand wishes to pursue his claims, he must file a complaint in a new case.

DATED THIS 26th day of July, 2022.

  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE